STATE OF ARIZONA

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STATE OF ARIZONA

DEPT OF INSURANCE

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE BY MEK 8/20/19

In the Matter of:

GUZMAN. ROMEO URBANO (National Producer Number 1485991)

and

ROMEO U. GUZMAN AGENCY, L.L.C. (Arizona License Number 1800005582)

Respondents.

No. 19A-117-INS

ORDER SUMMARILY SUSPENDING **INSURANCE PRODUCER LICENSES** AND NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

The State of Arizona Department of Insurance ("Department") has received evidence that Romeo Urbano Guzman and Romeo U. Guzman Agency, L.L.C. (collectively the Respondents), violated provisions of Title 20, Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S."). In light of the serious nature of these allegations, the Director of Insurance for the State of Arizona ("Director") finds that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action, within the meaning of A.R.S. § 41-1092.11(B).

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Romeo Urbano Guzman ("Guzman") is, and was at all material times, licensed as an Arizona resident insurance producer, National Producer and Arizona license number 1485991.
- 2. On or about June 24, 1987, the Department issued a license to Guzman with two (2) lines of authority: property and casualty insurance. On or about March 23, 1989, the Department issued a license to Guzman for two (2) additional lines of authority: accident and health or sickness and life insurance. Guzman's license last renewed December 1, 2018 and is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2022.

- 3. Guzman's address of record with the Department is 6539 West Corrine Drive, Glendale, Arizona 85304 (business and mailing). Guzman's business email address of record is medmal85304@yahoo.com.
- 4. The Romeo U. Guzman Agency, L.L.C. ("the Agency) was, at all material times, licensed as an Arizona resident insurance producer, Arizona license number 1800005582.
- 5. On or about July 6, 2007, the Department issued a license to the Agency with four (4) lines of authority: property, casualty, accident and health or sickness, and life insurance. The license last renewed August 1, 2015 and expired July 31, 2019.
- 6. The Agency's address of record with the Department is: 6539 West Corrine Drive, Glendale, Arizona 85304 (business and mailing).
- 7. Per the Arizona Corporation Commission ("ACC") website, the Agency is active and in good standing. On or about July 6, 2007, Guzman filed "Articles of Amendment" with the ACC. According to the Articles of Amendment, Guzman is the sole manager of the limited liability company as well as its statutory agent.

Centurion Medical Liability Protective RRG, Inc. Complaint

- 8. On or about July 25, 2019, Sarah L. Barnes ("Barnes") of the firm Broening Barnes Woods & Wilson, submitted a complaint to the Department on behalf of her client, Centurion Medical Liability Protective RRG, Inc. ("Centurion").
- 9. According to the complaint and information received subsequent thereto, Centurion contracted with Guzman from August 29, 2007 to April 8, 2019. In January 2014, Guzman entered into an "Exclusive Insurance Agency Agreement" with Centurion; per the Agreement, Centurion required Guzman to solicit medical professional liability insurance

business exclusively for Centurion. Due to a breach of the Agreement, Centurion gave Guzman a 60-day notice of termination on February 7, 2019.

- 10. On or about May 6, 2019, Guzman contacted Dr. Louis H. Glass, a general surgeon, and asked him to wire Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine Dollars (\$30,959) for his medical malpractice renewal premium. Dr. Glass had no knowledge that Centurion terminated their contract with Guzman.
- 11. Dr. Glass wired the funds; the online bank receipt confirmed a completed wire transfer (transaction number 5218145920) in the amount of \$30,950.00 on May 6, 2019 from Dr. Glass's Chase account to the account of Romeo Guzman Agency at the "recipient bank" (not identified by name). The message to recipient stated the funds were for the "malpractice policy of Louis Glass." The bank assessed Dr. Glass a Twenty Five Dollar (\$25) wire fee.
- 12. On or about May 6, 2019, Guzman contacted Dr. Jose Z. De Ocampo, a neurologist, and asked him to wire Twenty One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000) for his medical malpractice renewal premium. Dr. De Ocampo had no knowledge that Centurion terminated their contract with Guzman.
- 13. In lieu of wiring the funds, Dr. De Ocampo paid Guzman \$21,000.00 by paper check drawn on Wells Fargo account number xxxxxxxxxx3637. The Wells Fargo "Proof of Payment" receipt reflects Romeo Guzman Agency as the payee, and further reflects Guzman's signature endorsing the check which cleared on May 14, 2019. The memo line on the check reads "Med Mal 2019-2020."

14. On or about July 13, 2019, Centurion learned of the theft of funds. Each physician independently reported Guzman's conduct to Centurion who concluded Guzman collected funds from Drs. Glass and De Ocampo "under false pretenses."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Director has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. Respondents' conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation of improperly withholding, misappropriating or converting any monies or properties received in the course of doing insurance business, within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(4).
- 3. Respondents' conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation using fraudulent, coercive or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this state or elsewhere, within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(8).
- 4. Grounds exist for the Director to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew Respondents' insurance licenses and/or order restitution pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 20-295(A)(B) and (F).
- 5. The Director retains authority to enforce Title 20 and impose a penalty or remedy authorized by this title against any person who is under investigation even if the person's license has lapsed pursuant to A.R.S. § 20-295(H).

<u>ORDER</u>

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Romeo U. Guzman's Arizona resident license, number 1485991, is summarily suspended, effective immediately upon entry of this Order.

1	2. The Romeo U. Guzman Agency, L.L.C.'s Arizona resident license, number
2	1800005582, is summarily suspended, effective immediately upon entry of this Order.
3	DATED AND EFFECTIVE this Zote day of Avgnet, 2019.
4	7/1/
5	Keith A. Schraad
6	/ Director of Insurance
7	
8	NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING
10000	Pursuant to Title 20 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, Respondents are hereby notified that
9	Respondents may request a hearing pursuant to A.R.S. § 20-161 to contest the summary
10	suspension. Such request must be in writing and received at the following address within
11	thirty (30) days from the date hereof:
12	Arizona Department of Insurance 100 N. 15 th Ave., Ste 102
13	Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2624
14	Upon receipt of a timely written request for hearing, the Director will issue an order setting the
	time and place of the hearing.
15 16	this <u>QIST</u> day of <u>MINIST</u> , 2019, to:
	Romeo Urbano Guzman
17	6539 W. Corrine Dr. Glendale, AZ 85304
18	Respondent
19	Romeo U. Guzman Agency, LLC 6539 W. Corrine Dr.
20	Glendale, AZ 85304 Respondent
21	Romeo U. Guzman Romeo U. Guzman Agency, LLC
22	6539 W. Corrine Dr.
23	Glendale, AZ 85304 Statutory Agency for Respondent Romeo U. Guzman Agency, LLC

1	COPY sent same date via electronic mail to:
2	Romeo Urbano Guzman <u>medmal85304@yahoo.com</u> Respondent
3	
4	COPY of the foregoing delivered, same date, to:
5	Mary Kosinski, Regulatory Legal Affairs Officer Catherine M. O'Neil, Consumer Legal Affairs Officer Steven Fromholtz, Assistant Director Consumer Protection Division
6	Sharyn Kerr, Consumer Protection Division Aqueelah Currie, Licensing Supervisor
7	Wendy Greenwood, Investigator Arizona Department of Insurance
8	100 N. 15 th Ave., Ste 102 Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2624
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11	Francine Martinez
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